

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**WATERSHED COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES**  
**under the Proposition 13 Grant from the**  
**State Water Resources Control Board to Environment Now**

October 17, 2002

One of the most distinctive features of the Wetlands Recovery Project partnership is the involvement of local interests through the five county task forces. For the past three years, the task forces—each co-chaired by a county supervisor and a leading environmental organization—have actively served the WRP without any financial support. An award of a Proposition 13 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to Environment Now has allowed each of the task forces to hire a full-time WRP watershed coordinator for 15 months (4/14/02-7/15/03).

The overarching objective of the effort is to coordinate watershed planning on a regional basis by allowing the Task Forces to contribute local resources to the watershed management planning tools under development by the WRP. Five specific products will result:

1. A *Regional Watershed Planning Assessment* to identify and fill critical gaps in watershed plans and in regional watershed planning efforts, and to facilitate cross-watershed exchange of information by including a map and data base that depicts the key organizations involved in watershed planning. This will become part of the newly developed WRP Information Station—an interactive web-based data system organized by watershed that has different mapping capabilities (beginning to advanced), as well as data compartments for watershed profiles, bibliographic materials, and other relevant categories of information.

Work under the grant will allow those with locally based knowledge to contribute data to the Information Station. GIS layers will be selectively culled from this data for input into the SWAMP model, a GIS-based decision support tool for assessing ecological integrity. This tool is under development by the Science Advisory Panel and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Status: Watershed coordinators are working on or have completed the following:

- Drafted a *Gaps Report* that summarizes watershed planning activities and organizations in each county. The report also identifies areas not currently being addressed or in need of further attention.
- Developed a data base depicting organizations throughout the region and are continuing to expand it.
- Surveyed GIS resources for SWAMP and are now seeking to obtain the actual data needed.
- Developing a documents data base that will expand the Information Station's Library-on-Line and are the data.

2. A *Comprehensive Restoration Project Inventory* to describe the universe of watershed projects, highlighting those with habitat, water quality, and water supply benefits, among others, which will be used to target WRP funds, the small grant program administered by the Task Forces, and other funds such as SEPs or mitigation moneys.

Status. Watershed Coordinators are in the process of finalizing the format for the Comprehensive Project Data Base and will soon begin to enter information collected during administration of the questionnaire and follow-up research.

3. A *Southern California Watershed Volunteer Network* that will allow organizations throughout the region to post volunteer opportunities on a web site, linked to the WRP's web site, and to tap into a huge university-based network of volunteers to be mobilized by California's Public Interest Research Group's (CalPIRG's) WaterWatch coordinators and matched to projects of county task force members.

Status. A WRP Community Calendar is online and ready for business and the Watershed Coordinators will begin to promote its use. They will also begin working with CalPIRG's WaterWatch coordinators to match volunteers to key restoration and clean-up activities in their counties.

5. A *Regional Wetlands and Watershed Plan for Southern California* that identifies regional goals and implementation strategies. This will summarize the work under the grant, including the analysis that is being developed under the SWAMP model, to which the Watershed Coordinators are contributing GIS resources and their own critical thinking. They are also ensuring that county task force members are informed of progress in SWAMP's development. The *Regional Plan* will also include an action plan for each county describing the critical next steps that the Watershed Coordinators and task forces believe are needed to further watershed planning and restoration work.

Status. Underway.